

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 11 remain in this application. Claims 1 – 11 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments noted is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 4 – 7 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. Accordingly, claim 4 has been amended to only depend from claim 1. Hence, claim 4 is now a singly dependent claim, and claims 5 – 7 are also singly dependent. Therefore, claims 4 – 7 are no longer in improper form.

Claims 1 – 11 have also been amended to delete the reference numbers from the claims and to eliminate the underlining found below the word “characterized.” Claim 1 has also been amended to improve the syntax of the claim and to more clearly define the invention. Support for an “articulated connector” 22 disposed between the swing arm 19 and the auxiliary arm 21 may be found, for example, in FIG. 1b. Claim 8 has been amended similarly to claim 1 to improve the clarity and syntax of the claim. Claims 6 and 9 have also been amended to correct the syntax of the claims.

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wohrle (U.S. Patent No. 4,637,338). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant’s device includes an articulated connector 22 comprising a plurality of joints that connect together the driving and driven arms of a doctor blade support beam that allows for oscillating the beam without radial loading. Wohrle fails to teach or suggest an articulated connector between the swing arm 19 and the auxiliary arm 21 that allows axial movement of the swing arm in relation to the auxiliary arm. In Wohrle, radial distortion of the swing arm occurs as forces are transmitted from the actuator. There is no teaching or suggestion of such an articulated connector in Wohrle. In the present application, the articulated connector allows the oscillation movement to remain a pure linear movement, and therefore, the doctor blade wears uniformly and the blade loading is kept stable (see page 5, lines 10 – 26). Further, the swivel bearing 2 in Wohrle is different than present

shaft 5, because the swivel bearing 2 is not in an end component of the beam as in the present application. Moreover, the supporting bar 20 in Wohrle is different than present bearing 16, because the supporting bar 20 does not allow the beam to pivot relative to the bearing assembly and move in the axial direction, as in the present application. Also, the intermediate lever 11 in Wohrle is different than present swing arm 16, because it is not rigidly connected to the shaft as in the present application. Furthermore, the trunnion 4 in Wohrle does not allow any axial movement and does not transmit any support force (i.e., moment) as does the present connector 22. Wohrle does not teach or suggest the present connector 22. Finally, Wohrle does not disclose an oscillator. And, even if an oscillator were added to Wohrle, it would not act independently as does the present oscillator. If the swivel bearing 2 in Wohrle were axially movable and the beam 5 was moved with an oscillator, the distortion problem raised in the background of the present application (page 2, lines 13 – 31) would appear because the spindle mechanism 12 in Wohrle is connected to the connection tube 21.

For these reasons, Wohrle does not teach or suggest the limitations of claims 1 and 8, and claims 1 and 8 are therefore patentable over Wohrle. Hence, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 8 over Wohrle be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 8, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halmschlager (U.S. Patent No. 5,868,841). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Halmschlager, similar to Wohrle, fails to teach or suggest an articulated connector 22 between the swing arm 19 and the auxiliary arm 21 that allows axial movement of the swing arm relative to the auxiliary arm without causing a radial distortion of the swing arm and transmitting the support force from the actuator. There is no teaching or suggestion of such an articulated connector in Halmschlager. Further, the drag bearing 2 in Halmschlager is different than present bearing 16, because the drag bearing does not allow the beam to move in the axial direction. Moreover, the swiveling device 24 differs from present articulated connector 22 because it never allows for any axially movement. The

cylinder 25 in Halmschlager is fixed to the stand 3 and lever 4 with no ability to move sideways. Furthermore, even if the swiveling device 24 transmits some force from stand 3 to lever 4, it does not transmit any moment. Halmschlager simply does not teach or suggest an articulated connector as in the present application. Finally, Halmschlager does not disclose an oscillator. And, even if an oscillator were added to Halmschlager, it would not act independently as does the present oscillator. If the drag bearing 21 in Halmschlager were axially movable, the oscillator would have to be connected between the beam 2 and some other fixed structure that allows for the movement of the beam, which is not taught or suggested by Halmschlager.

For these reasons, Halmschlager does not teach or suggest the limitations of claims 1, 2, 8, and 11, and claims 1, 2, 8, and 11 are therefore patentable over Halmschlager. Hence, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2, 8, and 11 over Halmschlager be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 9, and 10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were found allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant submits that claims 1 and 8 are allowable based upon the reasons stated above. Claims 3, 9, and 10, depending from either claim 1 or claim 8, are themselves in allowable form.

In summary, applicant submits that claims 1 – 11 are patentable over the cited references.

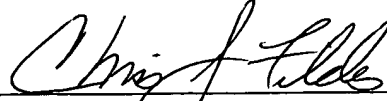
This amendment and request for reconsideration is felt to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

U.S. Application No. 10/799,007 -- 8

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris J. Fildes", written over a horizontal line.

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